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## No. II.

## EXTRACT OF MIMOSA BARK.

*The sum of THIRTY GUINEAS was this session presented to Mr. T. KENT, for his exertions in preparing and importing, from the colony of New South Wales, more than two tons of EXTRACT OF MIMOSA BARK for the use of tanners.*

It appears from an inquiry instituted by the Society last session, at the request of Earl Bathurst, secretary of state for the colonies, that since the great extension of the trade with South America, there are many thousand hides imported thence into this country, a considerable proportion of which, from a want of a sufficiency of native tanning materials, are obliged to be sent to the continent of Europe in a raw state. While these hides remain in the merchants' warehouses they sustain much damage from weevils and other insects; and from their being exported raw, all the additional profit which would accrue from their conversion into leather is lost to the nation.

In consequence of the increased demand thus occasioned for tanning materials, some persons have made establishments in Dalmatia, and in other European countries where oak is abundant, for the purpose of obtaining the active parts of oak bark in the concentrated form of an extract, and thus materially diminishing the freight of the article. Extract of oak-bark thus prepared, sold in April 1822, (as appears from evidence given by the principal importer at

the meeting of the committee above alluded to), at ninety pounds per ton, including duty.

In the year 1821, Mr. Kent, then resident at Sydney, New South Wales, communicated to Mr. Bigg the commissioner specimens of an extract for the use of tanners, prepared by him from the bark of a species of mimosa, a native of that country; and in the following year, 1822, he imported into England above two tons of the same. Of this quantity nearly half was purchased by Mr. Brewin, and the remainder by Mr. Thornton and other London tanners, at fifty pounds per ton.

These gentlemen last session gave evidence that the leather tanned by extract of mimosa is as good as that tanned with extract of oak-bark, and that a ton of the former will afford nearly as much leather as a ton of the latter.

The following is the process used by Mr. Kent in making the extract:

Take a quantity of mimosa bark, stripped from the trees in the spring months, that is, in August, September, and October, and, after the rough or outward coat is cut off, and whilst green, crush it by passing it through a mill constructed upon the principle of those mills which are used in the crushing of sugar-cane, but with this difference, that the rollers should be made of copper, and may be fluted. This done, the crushed bark is put into a copper boiler of clear water, in the proportion of one hundred pounds of crushed bark to one hundred gallons of water, and boiled gently two hours; after which run off the decoction into broad flat copper pans, through a sieve or other strainer, and evaporate to the consistence required.

One ton of bark produces four hundred weight of extract,

when brought to the consistence of tar, and if concentrated to a hard substance, as pitch, the produce is three hundred weight; but the evaporation, if carried to this extent, is liable to scorch and partially char the extract, and therefore is to be avoided.

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## No. III.

## FINE WOOL FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

*The LARGE GOLD MEDAL, the premium offered, was this session presented to JOHN M'ARTHUR, Esq. of Sydney, New South Wales, for the importation of eighty bales of FINE WOOL, in entire fleeces, the produce of his flocks in that colony. The following communication has been received from Mr. M'Arthur on the subject; and samples of the wool have been placed in the Society's repository.*

SIR,

London, February 23, 1824.

I TRANSMIT with this some samples of New South Wales' wool, in fleeces, and unsorted, together with the bill of lading, and various certificates as to the quantity and quality of an importation made in the month of June last.

I am, Sir,

&amp;c. &amp;c. &amp;c.

*A. Aikin, Esq.*  
*Secretary, &c. &c.*

JOHN M'ARTHUR, Jun.